

**MILFORD BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES from meeting dated 6/22/2004**

Meeting commenced at 7pm

Members present: Therese Oriani-Miller(Chair), Gil Archambault, Laurie Burnham, Donald Caisse, Dee Dee Carter, Bill Fitzpatrick, Mike Roske And Joe Stella(arrived at appr 8pm)

Absent: Ruth Macneilage

Minutes from BAC meeting 6/8/04 reviewed and discussed, corrections made. All in favor of meeting minutes 7-0

Minutes from BOS meetings 6/14/04 and 6/18/04 reviewed and discussed. According to BOS, volunteers for the town of Milford do not get a 50% discount at Hampshire Hills.

Need to contact Ruth Bolduc, HR Director, to obtain a copy of the employee handbook for town employees.

? Who will do this

Discussion: default budget-should it contain replacement program costs?

Vote: shall we advise the BOS to remove all planned replacement programs from the town draft default budget? 7 for 1 abstain 1 absent

Discussed unused equipment in all town departments. Allegedly the dump roll off truck at the transfer station is not being used. Can we advise that the items not being used be put up for auction to offset the budget?

Vote: advise the BOS that in the default budget spreadsheet that new unfilled positions be put as line items as candidates for reduction in the default budget if they are not filled. 8 for 1 absent

Discussed wages and benefits: 35% of wages=benefits. Each employee allotted 3% wage increase. This does not mean everyone gets that 3% though. It's up to the discretion of the department head to decide who gets what.

Discussed: should the town have a professional negotiator for union contract talks?

Discussed the need to speak with respect to each other. Do not criticize each other in front of department heads/BOS.

Discussed the alternate fiscal year plan. We vote in March and have already spent 10 weeks of the budget for the year. To change the fiscal year, taxes would have to be raised by 50%

BOS meetings:

6/23/04 5:30-7:30pm wages and benefits

6/23/04 7:30pm regional water district meeting

6/28/04 (?Time) final default budget

7/12/04 6pm ? (alternate fiscal year?)

Therese will let us know when the next BAC meeting is.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm MILFORD BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES FROM MEETING WITH BOS (06/23/04)

**PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Therese Oriani-Muller (Chair)

Members: DeeDee Carter, Joe Stella, Don Caisse, Bill Fitzpatrick

**BOS MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Cynthia Herman, Noreen O'Connell, Gary Daniels, Len Mannino, Larry Pickett

**OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING:**

Katie Chambers (Town Administrator), Rose Evans (Town Finance Director), Ruth Bolduc (Town Human Resources Director)

Absent: Laurie Burnham, Ruth MacNeilage, Mike Roske, Gil Archambault

Visitors: Katie Chambers

Meeting commenced at 5:30pm.

Cindy Herman discussed her recent appraisal of the six recently approved County Union Contracts. She noted all six include employee contributions of 20% to health insurance. All changed their prescription drug benefits to include higher co-pays (assumption is that premiums are lower). She praised the worth of a professional negotiator for union contracts. Also noted the overall average of the wage increase for six contracts is 2.54% (this figure estimated/calculated by Cindy based on figures she received at the review).

Katie explained/reviewed handouts with all present.

BAC chair stated BAC recommendation that the BOS remove the 'Replacement Program' items from the default budget. After some discussion from the BOS it was voted upon and agreed 5-0 to remove the items.

Discussion followed about method in determining department budgets. Some thoughts: give a percentage to each dept., give a cap amount, list priorities, start budget with zero and add on, start budget at last year's number, add as necessary. There was no conclusion at this time from the BOS as to how Katie should proceed in the budget process.

BAC chair concluded there is no reason for the BAC to meet with the BOS on Monday, June 28 because all matters of wages/benefits and default philosophy had been discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Handouts:

'Default Budget Calculation' Draft dated 22 June 2004 (two pages)

Chart titled '2005 Wage and Benefit Projections' (three pages)

'Summary of Vehicle Resource Plans' (one page)

Next Meeting: None Scheduled until BAC is notified of dept. head meetings with BOS.